

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 /076 W
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O R 121541Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6544

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PINS PINT RH ZA

SUBJ: KAUNDA ON RHODESIA

1. ADDRESSING A MASS RALLY IN LUSAKA SEPTEMBER 11, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE SECURITY SITUATION WITH RHODESIA AND ON ATTEMPTS TO FIND A SETTLEMENT THERE. REFERRING TO THE AUGUST 31 ATTACK AGAINST FEIRA, KAUNDA SAID THAT THREE ZAMBIAN SOLDIERS AND THREE CIVILIANS HAD BEEN KILLED, AND THAT THE RHODESIANS HAD USED NAPALM IN THE BOMBING RAID. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE ONLY REASON THAT ZAMBIA HAD NOT RETALIATED IN KIND WAS THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO KILL INNOCENT ZIMBABWEANS. KAUNDA CALLED ON THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS TO REMOVE SMITH FROM POWER BEFORE ZAMBIA WAS FORCED TO RETALIATE AND BOMB RHODESIAN TOWNS.

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2. ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, KAUNDA SAID HIS QUESTION STILL WAS HOW SMITH WILL BE REMOVED. WHILE HE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS, HE SAID THEY LACK THE VITAL ELEMENT OF THE MEANS OF REMOVING SMITH FROM POWER. KAUNDA TOLD THE CROWD THAT THE ONLY REASON SMITH WAS STILL IN CONTROL WAS BECAUSE HE WAS WHITE. HAD HE BEEN BLACK,

UDI WOULD HAVE ENDED IN ONE DAY. KAUNDA ALSO SAID HE WAS MORE HOPEFUL NOW THAT THE U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN THE SITUATION BECAUSE IN THE PAST THE BRITISH HAD NOT BEEN SERIOUS ON THE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR AN ANSWER ON HOW SMITH IS TO BE REMOVED.

3. KAUNDA ALSO TOLD THE LARGE CROWD THAT A 12-MAN "SABOTAGE SQUAD" OF WHITE AND BLACK RHODESIANS HAD BEEN INFILTRATED INTO ZAMBIA TO DESTROY IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS BRIDGES, ELECTRICAL SUPPLY STATIONS, AND POST OFFICES. HE WARNED ALL ZAMBIANS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR STRANGERS AND TO REPORT THEM TO THE SECURITY FORCES.

4. COMMENTING ON THE CONTINUING CURFEW AND BLACKOUT, KAUNDA CASTIGATED "RUMOR-MONGERS" AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FOR SPREADING "MALICIOUS" INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ACTION. REFERRING TO STORIES THAT THE CURFEW WAS BEING USED AS A COVER TO BRING IN RUSSIAN OR CUBAN TROOPS, KAUNDA SAID THAT IF HE THOUGHT SUCH TROOPS WERE NECESSARY, HE WOULD BRING THEM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. REPORTS THAT THE CURFEW WAS DESIGNED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WERE BRANDED AS LIES MANUFACTURED BY "IDIOTS", AS WERE CHARGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ROUNDING UP POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

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5. ON OTHER MATTERS, KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA WOULD BE UNABLE TO HOST THE OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON THE SAHARA (REPORTED SEPTTEL) BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION. ON SOUTH AFRICAN MOVES REGARDING WALVIS BAY, KAUNDA SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS REMAINING SILENT ON THE "DAYLIGHT ROBBERY" OF THE PORT, WHICH HE SAID BELONGS TO NAMIBIA.

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6. KAUNDA'S SPEECH WAS LONG AND AT TIMES EMOTIONAL. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT KAUNDA ACTUALLY SAID REGARDING US AND WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH REGIMEQBQ FOR EXAMPLE, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS HIM AS SAYING, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED RHODESIANHTSM OF NAPALM, "I AM ASKING THE AMERICANS WHO GIVE SMITH THESE WEAPONS TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS BECAUSE I CANNOT GO ON INDEFINATELY." THE U.S. DID GET GOOD MARKS FROM KAUNDA, HOWEVER FOR

ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS.

LOW

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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